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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,653	08/21/2003	Susumu Kusakabe	113235-006	9927
29175	7590	11/13/2006	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC				NGUYEN, THAN VINH
P. O. BOX 1135				PAPER NUMBER
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135				2187

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/646,653	KUSAKABE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Than Nguyen	2187

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 16-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/029,170.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/11/06</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/11/06 has been entered.
2. This is a response to the amendment, filed 9/11/06.
3. The IDS, filed 9/11/06, has been considered.
4. Claims 16-27 are pending.

Response to Amendment & Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 3/3/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach a first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by provider apparatuses that defines access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access rights to the predetermined area. The Examiner disagrees.
6. In summary, Applicant claims a memory that has two different areas. One area stores data ("second area") and one area ("first area") storing area definition data that defines security access rights corresponding to the second memory area.
7. Watanabe (4,734,568 for example) teaches a memory section including a first area for storing data of at least one user (memory areas 1- Y; Fig. 4; 2/25-30). This satisfies the claimed

“first area” limitation. Watanabe teaches storing an index area for each of the memory areas (1-Y) for storing security access information corresponding to the memory areas 1-Y (Fig. 4-6; 3/30-52). The security access information stored in the index area is used to determine access to each of the memory area 1-Y. Thus, Watanabe satisfies the claimed “second area” limitation.

8. The Examiner maintains the rejection to the claims, in view of Watanabe 4,849,614, for the same reasons indicated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. In response to the amendment to claims 16-25 to overcome the previous rejection to these claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the Examiner withdraws the rejection to these claims under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim Objections

10. In response to the amendment to claim 25, the previous objection to this claim is withdrawn.

Specification

In response to the amendment to the title, the previous objection to the title is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 4,734,568).

12. As to claim 16,20,25,26:

Watanabe teaches a composite IC card. Watanabe teaches the claimed information apparatus/method for:

receiving a command from a predetermined user (Fig. 12, command input 103);
processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and
second area;

the first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores
information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by
provider apparatuses (index area; one for each memory area; Fig. 4; 2/25-30) and
access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access
rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the
information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the
second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another
provider apparatus (index area contain access rights information for each memory
area; Fig. 4-6; 3/30-52), the second area including a plurality of user blocks
managed in block unit having a predetermined size (user memory areas 1-Y; Fig.
4; 3/20-45);

wherein processing the command includes accessing the area definition blocks
associated with the provider apparatus (using index areas to access requested storage
areas; 3/49-66);

transmitting results of said processing (response read/write output; Fig. 12).

13. As to claim 17:

Watanabe teaches an unused area is assigned to the first area (Fig. 3).

14. As to claim 18,21,23,27:

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Watanabe teaches processing the command by referring two or more data blocks of different access rights (a security level can have multiple access areas; 1/60-65; 3/67-4/5).

As to claim 19,22:

Watanabe teaches the second area includes a common area accessible by two or more users (areas in which multiple security levels can access; 4/1-30).

15. As to claim 24:

Watanabe teaches access right data is either read/write data OR read-only data (4/35-40).

16. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (US 4,849,614).

17. As to claim 16,20,25,26:

Watanabe teaches a composite IC card. Watanabe teaches the claimed information apparatus/method for:

receiving a command from a predetermined user (Fig. 5, command input 107);
processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and second area;

the first area including plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by provider apparatuses (index areas contain access rights information for each storage area; Fig. 1,3; 3/62-4/10; 5/50-6/40) and access right data associated with the area definition blocks which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights

data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus (index area contain access rights information for each storage memory area; 3/62-4/10; 5/50-6/40), the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in block unit having a predetermined size (memory areas 1- X; Fig. 1); wherein processing the command includes accessing the area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus (using index areas to access requested storage areas; 3/65-4/21); and transmitting results of said processing (response output; Fig. 5, step 09).

18. As to claim 17:

Watanabe teaches an unused area is assigned to the first area (Fig. 1)

19. 99As to claim 18,21,23,27:

Watanabe teaches processing the command by referring two or more data blocks of different access rights (areas accessed determined by security level; 6/56-7/22).

20. As to claim 19,22:

Watanabe teaches the second area includes a common area accessible by two or more users (shared area; 5/40-45).

21. As to claim 24:

Watanabe teaches access right data is either read/write data OR read-only data (read/write access data; Fig. 3).

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187